Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Elected in Spite of or Because of His Disability?

Severely disabled by polio in 1921, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) went on to serve two terms as governor of the State of New York and 12 years as president of the United States. Utilizing very rare pictures and video, Harris explores his “splendid deception” and how his disability influenced his leadership style. He argues that FDR was elected because of and not in spite of his disability. What ramifications does the FDR story have for today’s complex disability conditions?

A lecture by Richard Harris
Director Emeritus of Disabled Student Development
Ball State University

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Wednesday, October 24
7 p.m.
Siegel Hall Auditorium

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